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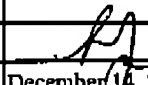
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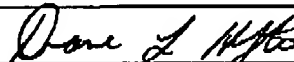
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TRANSMITTAL FORM <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Application Number	09/736,858	
	Filing Date	December 14, 2000	
	First Named Inventor	Jackson B. Hester, Jr., et al.	
	Art Unit	1624	
	Examiner Name	Brenda Libby Coleman	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	17	Attorney Docket Number	PC30116(formerly 6295.N)

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Technology Center (TC) <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
Remarks Authorization to charge the fee and any additional fees as necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 23-0455 is hereby given.		
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT		
Firm or Individual name	Robert N. Young Reg. No. 48,412	
Signature		
Date	December 14, 2004	

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Typed or printed name	Diane L. Hetzler	
Signature		Date December 14, 2004

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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DEC 14 2004

Ref. No. 030116 (formerly 6295.N)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.: 09/736,858

Confirmation No. 8319

Applicant: Jackson B. Hester, Jr., *et al.*

Filing Date: December 14, 2000

Art Unit: 1624

Examiner: Brenda Libby Coleman

Docket No: 030116 (formerly 6295.N)

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patent
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111

Dear Sir:

This communication is responsive to the non-final Office Action dated September 17, 2004. The shortened three-month statutory period is set to expire on December 17, 2004. Accordingly, applicants believe this communication is timely filed. Applicants believe that no additional fee is required for acceptance of this communication. However, should any fees be required, the Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 23-0455. Applicants likewise believe that no extension of time is required for acceptance of this communication. However, should a petition for extension of time be required for acceptance of this communication, applicants hereby petition for any extensions of time required for timely acceptance of the papers submitted herewith under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and authorize payment of such extension fees to Deposit Account No. 23-0455.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 15 of this paper.